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"To Serve and Protect Since 1859"

To my constituents,

2005 was a very enjoyable year to be a public servant. Completing my 7th year as Hall County Sheriff, I still am amazed of just how fast the time passes. It was a year of new beginnings, as well as saying goodbye to a few old friends. Both Captain Ruiz and Chief Hetrick retired this year, as did S.O. Captain Rodger Williams. I will miss them all, but know that the wealth of experience is still available with a simple phone call. Much to my pleasure Steve Lamken was named Hetrick's replacement and I look forward to working with him. Chris Kolb replaced Captain Ruiz and I am as excited about his appointment as well.

Here at the Sheriff's Office we continue to work on our new upcoming building with the Police Department. The new Law Enforcement Center will be almost 45,000 square feet, compared to the approximate 10,000 we occupy now. We are targeting a fall 2007 move in. We also continue to work on new technologies to make our job more effective and efficient, while serving our citizens. Our new web site and links with the community are more than exciting. Please check it out at www.hallcountyne.gov.

I continue to marvel of how fortunate I am to have the caliber of people that surround me. It is with their assistance that we accomplish so many things. These individuals embrace all our projects with skill, diligence and the expertise necessary to bring each project to a successful conclusion. Teamwork is probably the most important component of any effective organization. Before a law enforcement agency can be considered professional it must work and cooperate from within. Not only from within itself, but with other law enforcement agencies, government entities, private businesses and the citizens we serve. It is with pride that I share our agency is working well from within, and with outside entities toward our goal on maximum efficiency. This despite an economic climate where raises are small, and cutbacks inevitable when dealing with current spending lids.

Thanks to all my executive staff, sworn staff and support staff, together with all Hall Counties approximate 54,000 citizens I consider 2005 a very successful year for our office. We will continue on the path in which we walk, and continue to promote relationships within our communities while striving for our common goal of peace and security in 2006.

Sincerely,



Jerry Watson
Sheriff - Hall County